



NEWS RELEASE

RALPH T. HUDGENS
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER

Seventh Floor, West Tower
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
www.ocig.ga.gov

For Immediate Release
July 3, 2012

Contact: Glenn Allen
404-651-7902
gallen@oci.ga.gov

HUDGENS OFFERS ADVICE ON RENTERS INSURANCE

Atlanta -- After fire damaged 14 townhomes last Saturday afternoon in Henry County, Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens advises those who rent to consider renters insurance to protect their belongings.

“Each year severe weather, fire and burglary take a toll on people’s possessions,” Hudgens said. “Typically, homeowners are more likely to purchase insurance on their property, but renters should consider insurance coverage as well.”

Approximately 14 families are reported to have been displaced by Saturday’s fire. Typically, the landlord or leasing company’s insurance does not cover the personal belongings of tenants.

Commissioner Hudgens offered answers to these common questions about renters insurance:

Q: What does renters insurance cover?

A: The possessions of anyone who rents a residence, whether it’s an apartment, house, manufactured home or condominium. Renters insurance provides protection for personal property, such as furniture, electronics and clothing. It also provides liability protection for the policyholder should someone be injured or sustain damage to their property while visiting the policyholder’s residence.

Q: My neighbor accidentally started a fire that destroyed the entire apartment building, including my unit. Will his insurance cover my personal belongings?

A: His liability insurance may cover your belongings, but only if it is determined he was negligent in causing the fire. The only way to guarantee your property is protected is to have your own renters insurance.

Q: Won’t the landlord’s insurance cover my personal belongings?

A: In most cases, no. The landlord’s insurance may cover you if you can prove liability on the part of the landlord, but again, the only way to guarantee your property is protected is to have your own renters insurance.

Q: If the pipes in my apartment burst, through no fault of my own, wouldn’t the landlord be responsible for replacing my belongings?

A: Maybe. If the pipes burst as a result of negligence on the part of the landlord, the landlord may be liable. However, negligence can be hard to prove.

Q: I own a condominium. Do I need homeowners or renters insurance?

A: Neither. You need condominium owners insurance. It provides limited property coverage, as well as contents coverage and liability.

Q: My roommate has renters insurance; won’t that cover all my belongings as well?

A: No. The policy only protects the person named in the policy or a relative living with that person.